Amateur Radio Newsline™ Report 1309 – September 13th, 2002

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1309 with a release date of Friday, September 13th 2002 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A world ham radio license inches closer while the N-T-I-A says no to 5 MHz for U-S hams. These stories are first on Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1309 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO REGULATIONS: WORLD HAM LICENSE A BIT CLOSER

A world wide universal ham radio license is a bit closer. Q-News Graham Kemp, VK4BB, reports on a meeting that has opened yet another door:

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AUDIO REPORT ONLY: NO TEXT AVAILABLE. Audio is at http://www.arnewsline.org
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It had been hoped that a world license would have been in place by the turn of last century two years ago. Now pundits are suggesting the end of 2009 or maybe 2010. (Q-News)

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AMERICA AT WAR: HAM RADIO COMMEMORATES 911

Amateur radio was at ground zero in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania a year ago. And on the first anniversary of the terror attack that felled the World Trade Center, hams were there once again as the nation paused to reflect. The day before the 911 commemorative ceremonies were held the United States was put on a heightened state of alert for terrorist activity. Color orange the government calls it. And since 911 the words to live by all around the world have been – be vigilant.

Ed Note: From the President of the ARRL addressing the hams of the world on an Internet link-up, to hams in Florida operating air-mobile carrying American Flags to hams in NYC assisting at ceremonies, the Amateur Radio community involved itself in 9-11-2002. Much of it appeared to be planned at the last minute and only now are reports coming into our newsroom. Rather than rush together a report that would not do justice to all that was done, we plan to do in-depth coverage in next weeks newscast. (ARNewsline™ from listener reports)

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THE CHALLANGE TO OUR BANDS: ARRL EXPECTED TO FILE ON THE 222 MHZ ISSUE

The American Radio Relay League is expected to file reply comments in opposition to the initial comments of Data Commlink Incorporated. This, in FCC W T Docket 02-224.

As reported last week, W T Docket 02-224 merely sought to gather comments on

requests for waivers on spectrum management services in the 220 to 222 MHz band. But Data Commlink decided to use it as an opportunity to strongly suggest that the FCC remove 222 to 225 MHz from use by radio amateurs and transfer it over to commercial service. Primarily for use by the electric power cooperatives that it represents.

Word is that the League will vigorously defend the 222 to 225 MHz spectrum. Keep an eye on the ARRL website news pages at www.arrl.org for the latest. (ARNewsline™)

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THE SPECTRUM FIGHT: NTIA HEAVES POTENTIAL MONKEY WRENCH INTO 5-MHZ BAND PROPOSAL

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration -- the N-T-I-A -- has recommended that the FCC not grant an ARRL petition for a domestic-only secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 5 MHz. Amateur Radio Newsline’s David Black, KB4KCH, has the details:

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The N-T-I-A regulates radio spectrum allocated to the federal government. According to the ARRL Letter, the last-minute negative recommendation from that agency followed hundreds of largely favorable comments and reply comments from all sorts of organizations and from many individuals.

But in an August 21st letter, the N-T-I-A's Fredrick R. Wentland wrote that federal agencies are making extensive use of High Frequencies for emergency services. This, Wentland says, includes communications support for the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard and Department of Justice.

Wentland, , who is the agency’s Acting Associate Administrator for Spectrum Management went on to say that the N-T-I-A believes the Commission's current proposal does not adequately provide for protection from harmful interference to these critical government operations primary in the band. He says that without a more complete understanding of the interference potential to federal operations, the N-T-I-A believes the secondary amateur allocation would be "premature.”

But Wentland did offer up a carrot so as to speak. He said that N-T-I-A was willing to work with federal agencies, the FCC and the amateur community to determine whether some future accommodation for amateurs at 5 MHz would be possible. However that could include limitations on power or emission types, a reduction in the size of the proposed band, the use of discrete frequencies or geographical restrictions.

>From the South-East Bureau, I’m David Black, KB4KCH, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.
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Wentland's letter arrived at the FCC beyond the cut-off date for reply comments for ET Docket 02-98. None-the-less, the N-T-I-A is a powerful agency and when it speaks, all other agencies tend to listen and to obey. (ARRL)

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Break 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9EAR repeater serving Bloomington Indiana.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIOSPORTS: US TEAM RETURNS FROM ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's team of eleven American on-foot foxhunting enthusiasts were up against more than 300 competitors from 28 other nations, and they came within two minutes of bringing home our first medal. Nadia Mayeva from Mooresville, North Carolina took fourth place in her age category by finding all her required transmitters in 109:02. She was edged out by a YL from China, who won the category bronze medal in 107:20.

Gyuri Nagi KF6YKN of Maspeth, New York placed fifth out of 50 in the hotly-contested M40 category. Tthat's males ages 40 through 49. He and his family put on a one-week training camp for members of Team USA near his native hometown in Hungary during the week before the championships.

This was USA's third trip to the World Championships, which are held in even-numbered years at locations chosen by the International Amateur Radio Union. Team members ranged in age from 33 to 60. Co-captains were Dick Arnett WB4SUV of Erlanger, Kentucky and Bob Frey WA6EZV of Cincinnati, Ohio. Karla Leach KC7BLA of Bozeman, Montana represented USA and IARU Region 2 on the International Jury overseeing the competitions. Her assignment was Course Marshal at one of the foxes.

Complete results for all ARDF Team USA members plus lots more information about the sport are now at Team USA's official Web site: www.homingin.com That's homingin -- one word -- homingin.com

>From sunny southern California, this is Joe Moell K-zero-Oscar-Victor, for Amateur Radio Newsline. (K0OV, ARNewsline™)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: BASS OFFICIALLY OFF OCTOBER ISS FLIGHT

It’s now official. The Russian Space Agency has notified NASA that 'N Sync singer Lance Bass, KG4UYY, won't fly to the international space station next month because his backers were unable to raise the $20 million fare.

With backing from corporate sponsors that included Radio Shack and MTV, Bass had hoped to blast off from the Bikenour Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on October 28th. But the producer of a seven part documentary on Bass experience in space failed to raise the full amount of money needed. The result is that the pop star was grounded by the Russians and a cargo container substituted on the flight in his place.

Had he flown Bass who is age 23 would have been the youngest person and youngest ham radio operator ever in space. He also would have been the third

paying space tourist to visit the I-S-S. We'll have more ham radio space related news later in this weeks newscast. (ARNewsline™ from published reports)

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ENFORCEMENT: DONT TAKE 10 ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The FCC has told Cheetah Transportation Company to keep its trucking operation off of the 10 meter Amateur band. In a letter to the Monroesville North Carolina company the FCC says a driver for a vehicle licensed to Cheetah was operating unlicensed radio transmitting equipment on 28.085 MHz. This, while driving on Interstate 77 in South Carolina last June 5th.

In its letter to the company the FCC tells Cheetah Transportation that this operation will subject the person operating the radio to fine or imprisonment if the violation continues. Fines normally range from $7500 to $10,000. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC SAYS NYC REPEATER PROBLEM IS SOLVED

The FCC says that a repeater problem in the New York City area has been put to rest. This as the agency places primary responsibility for solving interference on the shoulders of the operator of an uncoordinated repeater. The agency's Daryl Duckwoth, NNZ0W, explains:

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Duckworth: "We closed the case involving a repeater operated by Ramon Floriman, KB2PRV, of Elmhurst New York. Florimam was unable to show coordination and the Enforcement Bureau pointed out that he would be primerilly responsible for resolving any interfertence to a coordinated repeater; that a Control Operator must be present during the operation of the station and that the repeater is to be used only by licensed operators."
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The FCC hopes that closes the book on this one. (RAIN, FCC)

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HAM RADIO EDUCATION: THE BIG PROJECT WORKS

The ARRL Education and Technology Initiative, better known as "The Big Project," has been getting big donations. More important, its getting big results.

The Big Project was created by ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP. League Vice President Kay Cragie, WT3P, made it all work. Its primary objective is the spreading of Amateur Radio into the nation's schools.

The Big Project support fund has already received $198,000 in donations from approximately 3,400 individual ARRL members. The average donation has been about $50. (ARRL Great Lakes Div. Release)

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HAM RADIO TRAINING: HAMTESTONLINE.COM

J. Cunningham and Associates has launched a new subscription website for aspiring radio amateurs and those wanting to upgrade. Called www.hamtestonline.com, the company says that the site is designed to help both new and experienced ham radio enthusiasts prepare for U.S. amateur radio written exams.
According to a press release, HamTestOnline operates entirely online. There is no software to download or install. One click records your answer, provides feedback, and presents the next question. The Website includes all questions from the latest Technician, General, and Amateur Extra question pools.
J. Cunningham & Assoc. is a small software development and consulting firm located on the outskirts of Boston, Massachusetts. They can be contacted by e-mail to webmaster @hamtestonline.com. (Hamtestonline)

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BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING: SBE OFFERS CERTIFICATION

The Society of Broadcast Engineers – the SBE – is offering a program of certification for broadcast engineers. Certificates range from the entry-level Broadcast Technologist to the 20-plus-years-of-experience-needed Professional Broadcast Engineer. The program includes certification for Audio and Video Engineers. There is also a Broadcast Network Technologist which does not include any RF related questions. For more information about SBE Certification contact the SBE chapter nearest to you. (SBE PDX)

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CELEBRATIONS: SCADS AT YEAR 29

The 29th Birthday Meeting of the Southern California Area D-X’ers is slated for September 21st at 12 noon. The venue is the Community Room of the F&M Bank in suburban city of Seal Beach. The meeting is open to the general public. Contact Bill Fisher by e-mail to billfishernow@netzero.net for more information on this special gathering. (SCADS)

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SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS: GB2RAF ON THE AIR

And the permanent special event station GB2RAF located at the UK Royal Air Force Air Defense Radar Museum was to be operational on Saturday the 14th of September between 09:00 and 14:00 UTC in the 80 or 40 meter bands. QSL will be sent to all amateurs who make contact and request one. (GB2RS)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today’s radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org.

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EDUCATION: HOME SCHOOLING HAD HAM RADIO

In California where Amateur Radio Newsline is located, some 150,000 youngsters each year are getting their primary education at home. They are home schoolers. Their teachers are primarily their parents and similar percentages hold for most other states. And there's a growing question: Has ham radio become a part of the home schooling movement? Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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Rumors abound that ham radio has become an important addition to the nations home schooling movement but only those involved in home schooling can really tell us -- and you -- what's happening. To try to find out, Amateur Radio Newsline is going to run one of our "mini surveys."

To take part is simple. First you need to be a ham radio operator who is home schooling his or her children or a ham radio kid who is being home schooled. If you fit either category, take a moment to send us a note explaining how you are using ham radio in your home schooling curriculum and why you chose it.

Please send your electronic response to newsline@arnewsline.org and be sure to put the words home schooling in the subject line. We will collect the data for the next three weeks and then post some of it to our website. If we get enough input we may even try to write an article on ham radio and home schooling for one of the mainline Amateur Radio magazines -- if they are interested. Lets face it: This could make for a rather interesting project.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
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Again, if you are a home schooler who uses ham radio in the teaching process please send your e-mail response to newsline@arnewsline.org and be sure to put the words home schooling in the subject line. We thank you for taking part in this survey.

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: U-O-SAT 11 HEARD AGAIN

In the world of ham radio in space, word that U-O-SAT 11's V-H-F beacon has been heard once again. Paul Roeder, KK5ET in Houston reports via the AMSAT News Service that he copied the 2 Meter downlink on 145.826 MHz FM. This is a 1200-baud A-F-S-K signal and he heard it between 21:25 and 21:38 UTC pass on September 4th. Paul says that the signal was a strong S 3 to S 5. (ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: JAPAN TO DEVELOP SPACE SHUTTLE

Japan's space agency says that it plans to test an unmanned landing and take-off system next month. That nations National Space Development Agency, or NASDA, that it hopes will one day be used in a reusable shuttle or other spacecraft.

The five-part tests are to begin next month on Christmas Island in the Micronesian archipelago of Kiribati. They will be followed by a second set of

tests sometime next year. (K6DUE, NASDA)

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ON THE AIR: THE VHF/UHF FALL SPRINTS

The 2002 Fall Sprints, sponsored by the Southeastern VHF Society, are about to start up. According to Greg Robinson, KB4NVD , the Sprints are a fast paced block of time where all the contest activity is compressed into a short period. That says Robinson makes them a great chance to get on and work lots of stations on your favorite VHF and higher bands.

Robinson says that the bottom four bands all have their own separate evenings for the contest. The microwave bands from 902 MHz and up are grouped together on a weekend morning.

More information about the days of the Sprints , the rules and a list of who is handling the logs for each band will be found on the SVHFS webpage. Its in cyberspace at www.svhfs.org. (VHF Reflector)

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DX

In D-X, word that G3PYB, G8ACE and G8BKE believe they have re-claimed the United Kingdom distance record for 76 gigahertz. Yes that’s 76 gigahertz -- as in way up there in frequency.

On Sunday September 1st, the trio made contact on 75,976.2MHz over a distance of 79.6 kilometres between Ventnor on the Isle of Wight and Highclere, near Newbury in Berkshire England. Further details are on the world wide web and there's a link from the RSGB site at www.rsgb.org. (RSGB)

And nearly at the other end of the spectrum, on August 30th at 05:50 UTC stations G3MLO, and MW0AQD, were in QSO and taking part in the British 'Fivemegs Experiment' on 5398.5kHz at 05:50 UTC. Afterwards, G3MLO received a reception report from ZL2JR, saying that their signals had been copied in New Zealand. MW0AQD was received at '4 and 4' while G3MLO was copied at '5 and 4'.

While the 'Fivemegs Experiment' is intended to investigate propagation within the U-K, the contact was made shortly after sunrise in Britain and around sunset in New Zealand. This is the time that long-distance 'greyline' propagation can be expected to occur (RSGB)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A NEW KIND OF BATTERY

And finally this week, a new battery about to be marketed for home video enthusiasts holds a promise in expanding ham radio emergency communications. It is called Instant Power and Amateur Radio Newsline’s Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, has more in our technology report:

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One of the most frustrating experiences for a photographer or a ham radio

operator is to be in an acute situation that requires equipment work properly and have the batteries powering the equipment go flat. For the photographer it usually means a lost photo opportunity. To the ham radio operator assigned to provide communications during an emergency it could be a life and death situation.

But power reliability could soon increase dramatically. Steve Crow, K4CPX, passes along word that the nations largest photographic retailer, Ritz Camera has announced plans to begin selling a new battery that can keep a camcorder or digital camera shooting away for half a day.

The new source of portable power is Electric Fuel Corp.’s Instant Power disposable batteries. Based upon Electric Fuel's zinc-air technology platform, the Instant Power camcorder battery connects to the camcorder through its DC jack and offers the user up to 10-hours of running time. Another model designed for digital still cameras offers upward of 12 hours of continuous operation time. As with the camcorder battery, the digital camera battery pack comes with a built-in belt clip and 3-foot cord. Both batteries have a five year shelf life in the original sealed aluminum pouch and come complete with a 3-foot cord and an integral belt clip.

While not directly designed for ham radio needs and not a renewable source, the new battery could augment the needs of ham radio operators in emergency communications situations. And here’s where Amateur Radio ingenuity comes in. If models are available that can directly or through some home built regulator adapter be made to power a 5 watt hand-held radio, an Amateur working an emergency situation would have hours of power wll beyond that of his radios normal battery. And depending on how much he transmits, an Electric Fuel battery might run his H-T for several days before requiring replacement. This also gives the possibility of extended operations for low power Field Day stations, QRP treks and similar one-time operations. Best of all it is a date it, put it on the shelf and forget it power source, standing by for the next five years in case it is needed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ.

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Electric Fuel also manufacturers a smaller version of this battery technology for cellular phones and P-D-A’s. You can find out more about this new power source and the technology behind it is on the web at www.electric-fuel.com. (K4CPX)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, Amateur News Weekly, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB and Australia's Q-News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline @arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I’m Norm Seeley,

KI7UP, saying 73, and we thank you for listening." Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2002. All rights reserved.